

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by
Donald E. Martin, Sr.

Seeking Truth

*“Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”
(II Tim.3:7)*

*“Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; seeing that they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.”
(Luke 8:10).*

The revelation of scriptural truth comes ONLY by the means of divine inspiration given by the sovereign grace of God to whom he so desires. God had made this clear in the aforementioned scriptures. Our Lord Jesus further warned his disciples saying, “This people draw nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” (Matt. 15:8-9).

Yet, we as believers in the God/Man Jesus Christ have been admonished to “study the word”, to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ,” and that should be our desire, trusting the Holy Spirit to cause us to be students of the Holy scriptures.

I question how often man has taken the scriptures and rather than being able to “rightly divide the word of truth”, has been brought to a “private interpretation” of what one has THOUGHT to be the correct understanding. All we have to do is just stand back and look at the Baptist heritage...and see how many type Baptist there are in the United States alone. Possibly as many as twenty–three different types of Baptists listed in the “Denominations of America” (If I recollect).

The serious question is, what issues and matter of scriptural understanding which we feel that we are correct on are WRONG? Do we, as Old Baptists, have a corner on “the truth” in all things we hold dear as doctrine, Church practice and order? I, as an Old Baptist can make a list of things that the Primitive Baptist practice which CANNOT be

scripturally supported. You might look with amazement since I have made that comment, but it is true! Some of the items have been adopted as manmade traditions picked up along the past two hundred years of their history in America alone.

I see brethren debating with a multitude of words attempting to dissect the word of God (IMHO) sometimes beyond what God has been pleased to reveal.

Now (as God may permit) focus in on what I am about to say. If a person is looking at a human painted picture and have drawn so close to the portrait that ALL they can see is the “brush strokes” of the artist brush, and attempt to determine the purpose of “Why” the brush was moved in such direction, is not the observer of the portrait MISSING the beauty of the WHOLE PICTURE?

When we see a beautiful Tapestry of multiple colors of brilliant threads composing a breathless picture of beauty, it is lovely to the eyes of the observer, yet, you turn that Tapestry AROUND and look at the back, it is a confusing intertwined hodge podge of tread that makes NO sense whatsoever.

I wonder how often God’s people (as God has determined in our learning) has caused us to chase up and down rabbit trails pursuing the “Secret things” that belong ONLY to the Lord?

Oh! Beloved brethren, what have we pursued with such intensity in the Holy Word that has caused us to miss the beauty of the simplicity of its understanding? How many times have we dived into word definitions attempting to get the understanding of the matter, when all the time it was sufficiently set before us, but we could not SEE THE FOREST BECAUSE OF THE TREES!

I recall in my early Christian walk, there were about five of us brethren which met once a week and had a Bible study together. We had taken the writings of David, The Psalms, and took it word by word and each brother read about 5 verses each and commented on what they felt was the God given understanding. And then each of the brethren could comment as they were moved to do so on the verses as well for the edification of all. Now that was a very profitable time in my early Christian walk, one thing among many which I learned, was the fact WE DID NOT HAVE TO COME TO A DEFINATE UNDERSTANDING! If God had not been pleased to give us a common understanding on the verses under examination, we had all agreed that in God’s timing, as HE desired would teach us the TRUTH of the matter if at all.

As I have written in previous writings, we are ALL in different stages of spiritual maturity, therefore, not ALL have been made to accept and or receive various truths of the Holy Writ until God by his Spirit CAUSES them to be revealed to us. Dear Brethren, as we approach the stand in the meeting houses may God cause us to remember this fact: God alone can apply what is being set forth (if it be the truth) to the hearts and minds of God’s elect children. If our Lord’s little ones are to be revealed divine truth, it

is God's operation of grace not by man's persuasion, the preacher is a mere messenger for them that are given ears to hear the truth as it is set forth by the determined purpose of God Almighty.

The message of the Holy Scriptures MUST be weighed by the totality of the "whole matter" as scripture interprets scripture. Just as the Old Testament and Old Covenant was our example. "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples; and they were written for OUR admonition, upon whom the ends of the world have come" (I Corin. 10:11).

May our beloved Lord Jesus cause us to fellowship in the simplicity of Christ and his sufficiency in ALL things in our behalf. For though there be many unrevealed mysteries and secret things of our God, one thing is for sure, CHRIST is our total and absolute EXPECTATION in ALL Spiritual Truth, For HE is the SUM of all that be written in THE BOOK.

June 23, 2007